

Walmart are private places even though they are open to the public at certain times. Private land ownership places many rights in the hands of the owner. These rights can be exercised to the limit governed by municipal codes, if codes and regulations exist. These rights can be separated and sold individually such as in a conservation easement or mineral rights.

Government and environmental organizations can educate private landowners about options for their ecologically valuable land. Government can provide incentives such as tax incentives to protect forest land and funding for land acquisitions and easements that make wise land use decisions more desirable for the private landowners.

Activity 2:

Enjoying Pennsylvania's Public Lands

Summary: Participants will examine maps and information on Pennsylvania's state parks and forests and identify activities they can enjoy at the various places.

Questions: Where are state parks and forests? What can you do there? Why is it important to manage public lands for public enjoyment? Which parks have you visited? Which would you be interested in visiting?

Preparation

- Divide participants into groups and discuss procedures for group work.
- Provide each group with a Pennsylvania Tourism and Transportation Map (available through www.visitpa.com).
- Provide each group with a Pennsylvania Public Lands Worksheet (p 191).

Activity 2

Procedure

Question: Where are the public lands located in Pennsylvania and where do I find information about public lands?

1. Divide participants into groups. Establish groups of five or six. We are going to “take a journey to our public lands” using the PA Tourism and Transportation Map. Provide a map for each group. Distribute the Public Lands Worksheet for each team. Open the maps and locate the key. Discuss the key. Overview the location of various information on the map.

2. Each group is to complete the worksheet by using the front and back of the map. Additional paper may be needed to write answers. Allow about 10–15 minutes for groups to complete the map activity. Review the answers when completed. (Facilitator Note: The Appalachian National Scenic Trail runs from Maine to Georgia and is 2,167 miles of which 232 miles are in Pennsylvania.) Discuss participant experiences. Place a map in front of the room. Using yellow stickers, participants identify their favorite place on public land by placing their name on the map. Share their experiences. After hearing their experiences, place a red sticker on the place you want to visit.

Discuss the following question: How can participants be involved with public lands? List and discuss the following:

- Conservation Volunteer Program
- Forest Stewardship Program
- Park Management Plans
- Clean-up programs
- Advisory or Friends Groups
- PA Cavity Nesting Trails Program
- Watershed Education and stream watch programs
- Visit and Enjoy: Hiking, Hunting, Fishing, Camping, Kayaking, Horseback Riding, Birding